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FOREST INSECTS AND DISEASES IN KOUCHIBOUGUAC NATIONAL PARK IN 1991

Personnel of the Forest Insect and Disease Survey regularly survey national parks for forest insect and disease conditions. Some of the more noteworthy conditions encountered in Kouchibouguac National Park in 1991 are discussed below.

BALSAM FIR TWIG APHIDS have up to four generations per season. The second and third generations, which feed on the developing shoots and newly expanding needles, cause needle distortion and, occasionally, reduction in shoot elongation. Aphids caused light and moderate damage on balsam fir shoots throughout the Park.

BIRCH LEAFMINERS feed between the leaf layers, forming a blotch mine as the season progresses and giving infested trees a scorched appearance. Leaf browning ranged from trace to light on white and wire birch throughout the Park with moderate and severe browning at the Kelly's Beach parking lot.

WHITE PINE WEEVIL damage was evident on young, naturally growing white pine, especially at Tweedie and on the main road to Callenders Beach. The highest damage occurred at Les Pins, were 68% of the trees had leader damage.

GLOBOSE GALL RUST causes round galls on branches of jack pine. This fungal disease continues to be common in the Park, killing branches and causing tree mortality of small open grown trees. At Les Castors, 28% of the trees were infested and 12% were dead.

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HYPOXYLON CANKER starts as a slightly sunken, yellowish orange area on the stem. The cankers enlarge rapidly and eventually girdle the stem. Trees with infection on the lower main stem usually die within 5 years. Cankers weaken the stem, which is often broken by wind at the point where the canker occurs. Dead and living diseased aspen trees are present throughout the Park.

BALSAM GALL MIDGE was observed at trace levels on balsam fir trees throughout the Park. The larva of this insect causes a gall to form on the new balsam fir needle in which it feeds. The insect is not considered serious, except when in large numbers in Christmas tree plantations.

POPLAR SERPENTINE LEAFMINER larvae feed in a wandering, serpentine fashion between the upper and lower leaf surfaces, giving a silvery appearance to the foliage. The insect caused trace and light damage throughout the Park.

WHITE PINE BLISTER RUST is the most destructive disease of white pine in North America. Elongated cankers girdle the stem, causing spiketop or flagging symptoms and eventually killing the tree beyond the canker. It was observed on scattered trees throughout the Park and was most noticeable at Tweedie.

UGLYNEST CATERPILLAR feeds on several species of cherry and occasionally other hardwoods. The larvae live in large numbers in tents or nests. Numerous nests were visible at Tweedie and Les Pins in open fields.

CHERRY BLIGHT is a disease of pin cherry, with symptoms visible throughout the summer. Clumps of leaves wilt, turn brown and curl, and lesions or cankers on the stem produce a gummy substance. In 1991, light and moderate infection occurred on pin cherry at a few locations.

GYPSY MOTH is a major pest of forest and shade trees in southern Ontario, southern Quebec, and the northeastern United States. Gypsy moth is an established pest in southwestern New Brunswick and western Nova Scotia. The mature, hairy larvae are distinguished by five pairs of blue and six pairs of red dots along their back. In 1991, Park personnel assisted with the adult male trapping program, which resulted in three male moths being caught in the 12 traps returned. The majority of moths caught are believed to have been blown in on storm fronts from infested areas in New England. No other life stages of the gypsy moth were found. All parks are potential entry points because of the high influx of tourists, whose vehicles and trailors are potential carriers of larvae or egg masses. Visitors are requested to report any suspected gypsy moth to Park personnel.

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Forest Insect and Disease Survey
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